

formation.

Jan Avery, school counselor, related in a recent interview that the potential for a gang problem is definitely present in the Carbon area. Avery's colleagues, Bob Gitlin and Kim Williams, teachers at Carbon's Lighthouse Learning Center, concur.

Barry noted that while he works with school-age children in the DARE program, students who are questioned often respond that large percentages of kids are using drugs. But they actually know no one who is using drugs.

"Drugs are available in our schools,

Manager anticipates reopening mine to work crews in four to eight weeks

By KEVIN ASHBY
Advocate publisher

Employees at Willow Creek mine have expressed excitement last week to hear that teams had reached the longwall and found the equipment to be in great condition.

Employees could be seen gathered around a loud speaker as they heard the description of the longwall given to officials back in the base room. And what they found was good news for the employees as well as the company, pointed out John Boylen, general mine manager.

"The longwall looked good," explained Boylen.

A team advanced through the block walls at the mouth of the longwall section early last week. The team members continued at a 1,000 feet at at time when they would set up another seal and ventilate.

The team got to the 33 cross cut where they built the last seal. From there, the members entered into the area where the longwall is located.

Crews stopped at every 10th shield to check its condition, how it was holding pressure and whether the shield was still holding the top up. They stopped

at shield number 90, where the shear had stopped.

Boylen said the shear looked like it did when the miners left it when a fire broke out in the mine last November.

At the tailgate, there were no visible signs of a fire or heat until shield number 142 where two lights had melted. Also, some of the paint on the last shield flaked off. The mine manager described that part of the section as being covered with a substance that looked like coking coal or ashes, maybe an inch deep.

"There was not a lot of damage," said Boylen.

Crews did not have permission to explore in the gob section, but were allowed to look and report. Crews reported that they could see 40 to 60 feet back into the gob and could tell that there had been heat and smoke, but everything was still standing.

This week, crews will be going into the bleeder, where the members will breach the block seals and start establishing temporary seals in 1,000 foot intervals. When they reach crosscut 29, they will enter the connectors to go into the longwall tailgate entry and gob. Mine officials

wear gang related attire, or flash hand signals, three see a history of gangs in the community, two believe there has been a significant increase in the number of physical confrontations/stare downs within the past twelve months in or near the school, five say they have (Continued on page 2A)

Street gang graffiti may be done in old English-style letters, balloon or block letters or simple, single-stroke letters. Many Hispanic gangs will include Spanish phrases.

Cross-outs of individual letters or of rival gang names are common. Individual letters are crossed out when

are waiting for this to happen before speculating about this sections immediate future.

As for the rest of the mine, Boylen pointed out that the company has power to the mains. The miner in D-2 and a roof bolter were found under water.

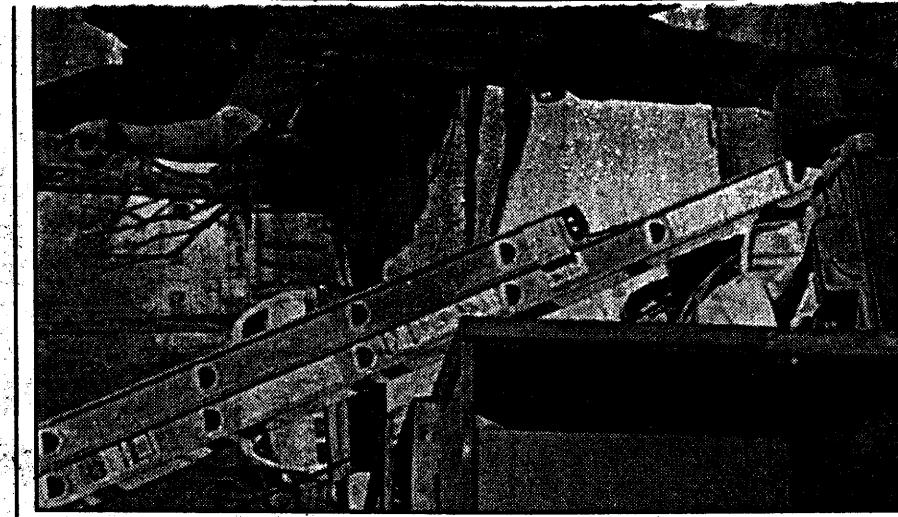
The water is now being pumped away and work will start to remove these two pieces of equipment from the mine to be refurbished.

As far as continuing to mine the coal in the present section, Boylen stated that it is much more promising after what the found this week with the condition of the longwall.

"After next week and we are to the connectors and we see what is in there then we can decided whether to stay or go," said Boylen. "It looked like you could turn the power on and fire it up."

"It was real positive about what we saw last week," continued Boylen. He stated that he met with the miners now at Star Point to let them know what they had found. He described them as being elated to hear the news. Boylen is forecasting between four to eight weeks before the workers will start mining coal again.

Now that the warm weather is dispersing relying on their heaters. Andy Sandoval, Ing and Air-conditioning, is instructing on how to install a heating system. The heating system and are replacing it. The term is being financed by Questar Gas heating repair be more affordable.



0004

Advocate 1/2/99 ACT/003 1/038 H J

1/2/99

Advocate 1/2/99